

Preliminary Amendment  
Inventor: Burns, John Granville  
Attorney Docket No.: 717901.19

[CLAIM 1]

CLAIMS

1. [A rectangular mat for the practice of golfshots on which the golf ball can be played from the surface of the mat or from a golf tee placed into the mat /and or a mat on which the surface is used to germinate and grow grass seed to produce flexible turf mats to replace worn or damaged existing turf on sports or recreational areas. The mats are constructed from a soil component which bound together and stabilised by placing into vertical adjoining system of tubes which are glued together and by/or the addition of binders into the soil component such as plastic polymers, papier mache natural plant fibers. The whole system is contained within a frame or box.] A mat suitable for use as a playing surface, the mat comprising a support matrix and a filler material.

2. The mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support matrix comprises papier-mache.

3. The mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support matrix comprises an array of close-packed tubes that are packed with the filler material.

4. The mat as claimed in claim 3, wherein the tubes are formed from a porous material.

5. The mat as claimed in claim 3, wherein adjacent tubes are attached to one another.

6. The mat as claimed in claim 3, wherein the tubes have lateral perforations.

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7. The mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the filler material comprises at least one filler material selected from the group consisting of papier-mache, sand, grit, polymer beads, soil, loam, sphagnum moss, peat, wood chips or shavings, sawdust, and clay.

8. The mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the filler comprises a fibrous material.

9. The mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mat is seeded with grass.

10. A method of making a mat for use as a playing surface, the method comprising adding a filler material to a support matrix, and heating or drying the support matrix and filler material.